

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in the application. Claims 2 and 6 have been amended herein. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Applicants have revised Figs. 10-11 to include the label "Conventional Art" as suggested by the Examiner.

I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 1 and 3-5. Applicants further acknowledge the noted allowability of claims 6-8. Claims 6-8 will be in condition for allowance upon being amended to independent form.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIM 2 UNDER 35 USC §102(b)

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 USC §102(b) based on *Masuda et al.* Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claim 2 has been amended to recite the aspect of the present invention whereby a cylinder holding member having the rotatable head cylinder provided thereon is integrally formed with the guide member. For example, the present application describes how the cylinder holding section 28e, 28f having the rotatable head cylinder 32 provided thereon is integrally formed with the guide member 28 for guiding the tape pull-out member. This is advantageous for reasons that include providing a simple, compact and low-cost loading mechanism that has a smaller number of components. (See, e.g., Spec., p. 6, ln. 31 to p. 7, ln. 8).

The Examiner has previously identified such "integrally formed", as read in light of the disclosure, represents allowable subject matter. (See , e.g., statement of reasons for allowance, O.A., p. 3). Allowable dependent claim 6, which previously recited such feature, has been amended to remain consistent with amended claim 2.

Masuda et al. does not teach or suggest the invention as recited in amended claim 2. In *Masuda et al.*, the cylinder is mounted on a base 12. The base 12 and guide members 27a, 27b are separate components. Such components are not integrally formed as recited in amended claim 2.

For at least the above reasons, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 2.

III. CONCLUSION

Accordingly, all claims 1-8 are believed to be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

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